c.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said fuel liquid and said container are composed of materials consisting essentially of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen atoms which, upon combustion, produce water and carbon dioxide, and are substantially free of chlorinated compounds.

3. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39 wherein said suitable quantity of combustible, alcohol-based fuel liquid is between approximately 1 and 10 fluid ounces.

4. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said suitable quantity of combustible alcohol-based fuel liquid is between 2 and 6 fluid ounces.

5. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein- said liquid further consists of alcohol selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, and 3 carbon atom-containing alcohols, and combinations thereof.

6. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 5, wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, and combinations thereof.

7. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises ethanol and at least 6% by weight isopropanol, wherein enhanced and sustained flame visibility is provided by the presence of said isopropanol in said fuel liquid.

8. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid further comprises between 1% and 35% by weight water, wherein said water

reduces the rate combustion of said liquid and the rate of heat transmission to said container.

9. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said fuel liquid further comprises an effective amount of at least one bittering agent.

10. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein the liquid provides enhanced flame visibility upon combustion, said composition comprising between approximately 65% and 100% by weight of a mixture of alcohols comprising ethanol and isopropanol, wherein isopropanol comprises between approximately 6% and 66% by weight of said composition and ethanol comprises between approximately 34% and 94% by weight of said composition, and wherein the weight ratio of said isopropanol to said ethanol in said composition does not exceed 2:1; and between approximately 0% and 35% by weight of water.

11. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said container is fabricated from at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polycarbonates, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said container is fabricated from at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate and combinations thereof.

13. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said container measures between 0.5 and 3.0 inches in height and between 2 and 8 inches in diameter or width.

14. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said thickness is between approximately 0.010 and 0.040 inches.

15. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid further comprises at least one thickening or gelling agent.

16. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises a thickening or gelling agent in an amount effective to produce an absolute kinematic viscosity at 20.degree. C. of from 250-100,000 cp.

17. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises a thickening or gelling agent present in an amount from 0.1% to 5% by weight of said fuel liquid.

18. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said alcohol-based fuel liquid comprises a thickening or gelling agent present in an amount from 0.2% to 1% by weight of said fuel liquid.

19. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said liquid contains a thickening or gelling agent selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, natural gums, inorganic thickeners, and synthetic homopolymers and copolymers having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms per monomer unit.

20. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is a cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxycellulose, hydroxyalkylcellulose, and carboxymethylcelluose.

21. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 20, wherein said hydroxyalkylcellulose thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

22. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is a synthetic homopolymer or copolymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic

acids, polyacrylic acid esters, polyacrylic acid amides, polymethacrylic acids, polymethacrylic acid esters, polymethacrylic acid amides, polyvinylacetate, and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

23. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is a natural gum selected from the group consisting of acacia, alginate, carrageenan, guar, karaya, pectin, tragacanth, and xanthan.

24. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 19, wherein said thickening agent is an inorganic thickener selected from the group consisting of silicas and clays.

25. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said assembly further comprises an alcohol-impermeable sealing cover film attached to a mouth of the container to form either a hermetic or a removable seal over said container, wherein said sealing cover film, together with said container, prevent leakage and evaporation of said liquid during storage and shipping.

26. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 25, wherein said assembly further comprises a protective overcap lid placed over said sealing cover film and secured to said mouth of said container.

27. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 25, wherein said sealing cover film is selected from the group consisting of induction-sealable thermoplastic films, heat-sealable thermoplastic films, and foil-thermoplastic composite sheets.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously amended) A method of igniting charcoal and wood fires comprising igniting the fuel in an assembly of claim 39, and allowing said assembly to burn beneath

a suitable quantity of charcoal or wood to be ignited for a time sufficient to ignite said quantity of charcoal or wood.

~~31.~~ (Previously amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said assembly further comprises a container sealing sheet, further comprising piercing or otherwise disrupting said container sealing sheet of the container in said assembly prior to igniting said fuel.

32. 2. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein said quantity of charcoal is at least 2 pounds.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) A kit comprising at least one combustible fire-starting assembly of claim 25, and a quantity of charcoal lumps suitable for preparing a charcoal fire.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) The kit of claim 34, wherein said quantity of charcoal is at least 2 pounds.

37. (Original) The kit of claim 34, further comprising printed instructions for use.

38. (Previously Presented) A method for heating a material, comprising igniting the fuel in an assembly of claim 39, and allowing said fuel to burn beneath said material.

39. (Currently Amended) A combustible assembly comprising a quantity of alcohol-based fuel liquid held within a freestanding, combustible, alcohol-resistant and alcohol-impermeable open container fabricated from at least one plastic resin, wherein ~~said container is substantially free of inorganic materials~~ the total resin content is at least 99 percent pure, and is of a shape which is a member of the group which consists of:

(a) a bowl;

(b) a cup;

(c) a tub; and

(d) a dish,

said container having a height, and comprising an opening at a point of maximum width, wherein the maximum width is at least equal to the height, and wherein said container is made of a plastic composition, thickness and rigidity as to retain said liquid without leakage throughout the period of combustion, with said container entirely consumed together with the liquid.

40 (Previously amended) A kit comprising:

(1) a quantity of combustible alcohol-based fuel liquid;

(2) a freestanding, combustible, alcohol-resistant and alcohol-impermeable open plastic container of shape which is a member of the group which consists of:

(a) a bowl;

(b) a cup;

(c) a tub; and

(d) a dish,

said container having a height, and comprising an opening at a point of maximum width, wherein the maximum width is at least equal to the height, and wherein said container is made of a plastic composition, thickness and rigidity as to retain said liquid without leakage throughout the period of combustion, with said container entirely consumed together with the liquid.

(3) an alcohol-impermeable removeable sealing cover film adhesively attached to the opening; and

(4) a multiplicity of charcoal lumps suitable for preparing a charcoal fire.